

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF AIR AND RADIATION

July 2000

Dear Light Commercial HVAC Manufacturer or Other Interested Party:

EPA welcomes your input on the following draft specification for the ENERGY STAR[®] Light Commercial HVAC Program. This four-page document outlines the main criteria that manufacturers' products will need to meet in order to qualify for the ENERGY STAR label. We encourage you to review the draft specification and provide comments by August 14, 2000. Comments should be sent to me via e-mail at mail to: Fanara.Andrew@epa.gov.

While reviewing the draft specification, please keep in mind that the primary objective of the Energy Star Program is to recognize energy-efficient products in the market through the use of the Energy Star label. It is not EPA's intention to design a specification that will allow every model to qualify for the label. Nor, is it EPA's intention to set a specification at a level to severely restrict the number of compliant products. Moreover, EPA plans to set an Energy Star specification that while challenging, provides manufacturers with appropriate incentives and lead-time to redesign their products. For products that do not initially meet the specification, it is EPA's hope that manufacturers will strive to comply over time, thus leading to more energy-efficient product choices in the marketplace.

All industry comments will be reviewed and considered carefully during program development. The exchange of ideas and information between EPA, industry, and other interested parties is critical to the success of each ENERGY STAR Program. As such, you are strongly encouraged to provide prompt feedback.

To ensure confidentiality when submitting comments, please mark all sensitive information as CBI (Confidential Business Information). Unless otherwise noted, all information will be treated as proprietary and confidential and will not be shared with others without prior consent.

In the coming months, EPA will gather industry feedback on this Program and issue additional draft specifications as necessary. It is EPA's intention to finalize the product specification by fall 2000. The final specification will be issued in a Partnership Agreement. The Agreement will provide effective dates for the Program, ENERGY STAR logo use guidelines, product submittal forms, and other program information. To ensure a successful program, EPA would like interested parties to comment on all aspects of the Light Commercial HVAC Program before the specification is finalized.

I would welcome the opportunity to discuss the ENERGY STAR Program and any comments on this draft specification during a conference call or meeting in the Washington, DC area. If you are interested, please contact me so that arrangements can be made.

Thank you for taking the time to review this draft specification. I look forward to working with you during the next several months. For more information about Energy Star and specifically the Light Commercial HVAC Program, please visit our web site at http://www.energystar.gov and click on "Products in Development."

Respectfully,

Andrew Fanara
EPA Program Manager
ENERGY STAR Light Commercial HVAC Program